practice, Maharashtra State is given a yearly festival quota of 9014 MTs over and above the normal levy quota.

FCI godowns in Tamil Nadu

318. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation and present capacity of the godowns of Food Corporation of India in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the number of offices and godowns proposed to be opened in the State during the current and next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Monthly allocation of rice & wheat to the State of Tamil Nadu is 1.29 lakh tonnes. The total capacity of the Godowns of FCI in the State of Tamil Nadu is 7.93 lakh tonnes as on 31.3.1998.

(b) Creation of a new District office/ Reorganisation of offices in FCI is a continuous process which is carried out on the need basis/ operational requirement. There is no proposal for creation of new Office/construction of godown in the State of Tamil Nadu in the current year. However, in the next two years, construction of the godown at the following centres with the capacity mentioned against each are under consideration:—

Centre	Capacity
1. Ramanathpuram	5,000 MT
2. Vilangudi	25,000 MT (with railway sidings)

Representation on duty concession from CCC

319. DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Coordination Council (CCC) have represented to Government that duty concessions given by Government to industries are not being passed on to the consumers and that the coceined industries are only interested in profits as a result of duty relief provided to them; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard and what mechanism is proposed to be evolved by Government so as to ensure that the benefits of any duty concessions to industries reach the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) In the pre-budget meeting taken by the Ministry of Finance on 28.4.98, the Consumer Coordination Council had represented that mechanisms should be devised by the Ministry of Finance to ensure that excise duty concessions envisaged in the Finance Bill are passed on to the consumers.

(b) The Ministry of Finance have stated that the prices of consumer goods are primarily determined by market forces or supply and demand and very often the duty reduction is motivated by the need to contain an undercurrent of inflationary pressure. Further there is no provision under the current excise laws to ensure that excise duty reduction necessarily results in reduction of prices at the retail level.

Implementation of AIDS control programmes

320. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation has undertaken HIV/AIDS Awareness and Control Programmes in rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of assistance released to State Governments during 1996-97 under the programme, State-wise;

(d) whether these programmes have been successfully implemented in all the States;